

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

DOUBLE PATENTING

The rejection of claims 1-15 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting has been obviated by the attached terminal disclosure and should be withdrawn.

SUPPORT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Support for the newly added claims 16-20 may be found in the specification on, for example, page 20, lines 11-13; page 24, lines 2-3; and page 24, lines 7-9. No new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Tahara et al. (US Patent No. 5,657,086) has been obviated by amendment/is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

Tahara discloses high efficiency encoding of picture signals (title).

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention provides a method for implementing non-reference frame prediction in video compression comprising the steps of (A) setting a prediction flag

(i) "off" if non-reference frames are used for block prediction and (ii) "on" if non-reference frames are not used for block prediction, (B) if the prediction flag is off, generating an output video signal in response to an input video signal by performing an inverse quantization step and an inverse transform step in accordance with a predefined coding specification and (C) if the prediction flag is on, generating the output video signal while bypassing the inverse quantization step and the inverse transform step. Claim 14 has similar limitations. Tahara does not disclose each of these limitations.

In particular, Tahara does not disclose generating the output signal while bypassing the inverse quantization step and the inverse transform step. In particular, the present invention determines whether the prediction flag is on or whether the prediction flag is off. If the prediction flag is off, the claimed invention generates an output video signal while performing the inverse quantization step and the inverse transform step. If the prediction flag is on, the claimed invention generates the output signal while bypassing the inverse quantization step and the inverse transform step. It is unclear how Tahara bypasses the inverse quantizer (element 60 in Tahara) and the IDCT circuit (the element 61 in Tahara). Applicants' representative requests that the Examiner either withdraw the rejection, or provide an explanation of how the cited passages apply to the claimed

invention. In particular, the cited passages do not appear to directly relate to the element 60 and the element 61 of Tahara.

Additionally, it is unclear how Tahara sets a prediction flag off if non-reference frames are used for block prediction and on if non-reference frames are not used for block prediction. Again, clarification is requested. Since Tahara is silent on at least one of the claim limitations, Tahara does not disclose or suggest every element of the claims. Therefore the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Newly presented claims 16-20 provide additional limitations of how the claimed prediction flag is generated. Claims 16-20 are believed to be independently patentable over Tahara.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Tahara et al. (US Patent No. 5,657,086) in view of Panasupone et al. (US Patent No. 6,647,061) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Tahara et al. (US Patent No. 5,657,086) in view of Dumitras et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0131121 A1) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Tahara et al. in view of Tourapis et al. (US Patent Application No. 2007/0047648 A1) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

Claims 7-8, 12 and 15 depend, either directly or indirectly, from the independent claims which are now believed to be allowable.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,
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